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2	EMPIRE STATE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
3	x
4	General Project Plan For the Proposed
5	Utica Crescent Mixed-Use Project
6	VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING
7	x
8	March 21, 2022
9	6:00 P.M.
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13	Before:
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15	Sue Charland, The Hearing Officer
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## PROCEEDINGS

- THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay.
- 4 We're -- I see some attendees are joining and we'll
- 5 just be a minute or so to let everyone filter into
- 6 the meeting and then we'll get started. And Nancy
- 7 if we could go to the first slide.
- 8 Okay. Thanks to everyone who has
- 9 joined so far. We're just going to give folks
- 10 another 30 seconds or so, in case anyone is still
- 11 trying to register at the moment but thank you for
- 12 being here.
- Okay. We're going to go ahead and
- 14 get started. It is now 6:03.
- 15 Good evening, everyone and welcome
- 16 to the virtual public hearing for the proposed
- 17 General Project Plan or GPP, for the proposed Utica
- 18 Crescent Mixed-Use Project.
- 19 My name is Sue Charland and I'm
- 20 the hearing officer for tonight's public hearing,
- 21 which is scheduled to run from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
- I've been asked by the New York
- 23 State Urban Development Corporation, doing business
- 24 as Empire State Development or ESD, to conduct this
- 25 public hearing pursuant to Section 16 of the New

- 2 York State Urban Development Corporation Act. The
- 3 purpose of this hearing is to inform the public
- 4 about the Utica Crescent Mixed-Use Project and to
- 5 consider and receive public comment on ESDs
- 6 proposed GPP for the project.
- 7 The legal notice for tonight's
- 8 hearing was published in the February 18, 2022
- 9 edition of the New York Daily News.
- 10 As stated in the notice, copies of
- 11 the proposed GPP are available on ESD's project
- 12 website at -- on the screen right now at
- esd.ny.gov/utica-crescent, and hard copies of the
- 14 GPP also may be obtained free of charge by
- 15 contacting Stacey Teran at ESD, 633 Third Avenue,
- 16 37th floor, New York, New York 10017, or by phone
- 17 at 212-803-3729.
- 18 I will be joined on screen
- 19 tonight by Douglas McPherson, ESDs Director of real
- 20 estate development and planning, who will describe
- 21 the proposed project and its public purpose and
- 22 benefits.
- In addition, an American Sign
- 24 Language interpreter will be joining us on screen.
- 25 My purpose is to run this hearing in a fair and

2	impartial	manner	and	to	try	and	ensure	that

- 3 everyone who wishes to speak has an adequate
- 4 opportunity to be heard. This is not a question
- 5 and answer session, rather, it is an opportunity
- 6 for you to present your views so that ESD can
- 7 consider them in making its final determination
- 8 about the proposed GPP and project.
- 9 Please note that this meeting is
- 10 being recorded and a stenographic transcript will
- 11 be produced. The link to the full recording of
- this hearing will be made available on ESDs
- 13 website. Also, again, on the screen here,
- 14 esd.ny.gov/utica-crescent.
- 15 Now I'd like to take care of some
- 16 administrative matters by asking the stenographer
- 17 to mark the following documents as exhibits to the
- 18 hearing transcript.
- 19 Exhibit 1, a copy of the Public
- 20 Hearing Notice that appeared in the New York Daily
- 21 News, along with the affidavit of publication
- 22 attesting to the publication of the notice, and
- 23 Exhibit 2, the proposed General Project Plan.
- 24 (Whereupon, the aforementioned
- 25 documents were marked as Hearing Exhibits 1 & 2.)

25

2	THE HEARING OFFICER: In making its
3	final determination about the proposed GPP and
4	project, ESD will consider all comments made
5	tonight, as well as any written comments submitted
6	to and received by ESD, on or before the close of
7	the public comment period at 5:00 p.m., on April
8	20, 2022.
9	Instructions for submitting
10	written comments can be found on the slide on
11	screen right now. For those who cannot see the
12	screen, the e-mail address is, uticacrescent - all
13	one word - @esd.ny.gov, that's
14	uticacrescent@esd.ny.gov, and the mailing address
15	is in care of Stacey Teran, at Empire State
16	Development, 633 Third Avenue, 37th floor, New
17	York, New York 10017.
18	I would like to share a few
19	additional notes regarding the public comment
20	portion of this hearing. If you signed up to speak
21	before the meeting, during the registration
22	process, we already have your name and you will be
23	called during the testimony portion of this
24	meeting. If you have not registered but wish to

speak, please enter your first and last name into

- 2 the chat feature of this Zoom, which can be found
- 3 by clicking on the chat icon on your menu bar.
- 4 Please note that the chat function is available
- 5 only to provide your name in the event you wish to
- 6 provide verbal comments.
- 7 Any comments submitted in the chat
- 8 function box will not be considered official
- 9 comments for the record. All written comments must
- 10 be provided to the e-mail address provided in the
- 11 notices which we have put on screen here today.
- 12 If you are joining by phone only,
- 13 you may press star nine, to indicate your desire to
- 14 provide verbal testimony. We will add you to the
- 15 end of the speaker list. Speakers on the phone
- 16 will be identified by their name or their phone
- 17 number that shows up on the screen, again that's
- 18 star nine. The option to sign up to speak will end
- 19 at 7:30, which is 30 minutes before the close of
- 20 this hearing at 8:00 p.m.
- 21 In order to give everyone ample
- 22 opportunity to speak, speakers should keep their
- 23 comments limited to no more than three minutes. If
- 24 any speakers are unable to conclude their remarks
- 25 in the allotted time, they may be given an

18

2	opportunity to conclude once all speakers have been
3	given an opportunity to speak, and if time allows.
4	In order to ensure an accurate
5	transcript, please state your first and last name
6	and if you wish, the community that you represent
7	at the outset of your remarks. If you are appearing
8	as a representative of an organization or a
9	governmental entity, please identify the
10	organization or entity and state its address.
11	I will now give you a minute to
12	read these instructions before I move on, that are
13	on the screen right now. Again, these instructions
14	will appear periodically throughout the meeting.
15	Before we begin the testimony portion of this
16	meeting, to hear your comments, we will hear from
17	Doug McPherson of ESD, who will summarize the

MR. MCPHERSON: Thank you Susan
and good evening. Empire State Development is
proposing a General Project Plan for the Utica
Crescent Mixed-Use Project. The proposed GPP was
adopted by ESDs directors on the 17th of February
adopted by ESDs directors on the 17th of February

25 public to provide comments on the proposal.

proposed General Project Plan.

2	Members	οf	the	public	can	review	the	documents
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- 3 being discussed tonight at the web address being
- 4 displayed on screen.
- 5 The Utica Crescent Mixed-Use
- 6 Project is part of Vital Brooklyn, a comprehensive
- 7 New York State Development initiative that
- 8 addresses chronic social, economic and health
- 9 disparities in central Brooklyn. In November of
- 10 2018, New York State Homes and Community Renewal
- issued a request for proposals for RFP, for the
- 12 redevelopment of several properties, including the
- 13 site of the proposed project, which is owned by
- 14 Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center, an affiliate of
- 15 One Brooklyn Health.
- In July of 2020, ESD working in
- 17 partnership with HCR, selected a team lead by
- 18 Monadnock Development as the conditionally
- 19 designated developer for the proposed project
- 20 described in the GPP and summarizing this
- 21 presentation.
- This proposed project aims to
- 23 advance Vital Brooklyn through the redevelopment of
- 24 the project site, which is currently a surface
- 25 parking lot. You can go back one slide. Today the

2	project	site	address	is	832	Rutland	Road	and	East
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- 3 Flatbush. The site is generally bordered by Utica
- 4 Crescent -- Utica Avenue on the east, Rutland Road
- on the north, East 49th Street on the west, two
- 6 properties, a house of worship and a private home
- 7 border the site on the south. The site is
- 8 currently underutilized and the proposed project
- 9 would ensure this condition does not persist in the
- 10 coming decades.
- 11 The proposed project would
- 12 include approximately 322 units of affordable and
- 13 supportive housing, with apartment sizes ranging
- 14 from studios to family size three-bedrooms. All of
- 15 the units would be affordable for households
- 16 earning equal to or less than 80 percent of the
- 17 area median income, while at least a quarter of the
- 18 units will be affordable to households earning
- 19 equal to or less than 50 percent of the area median
- income.
- 21 Eighty-nine of the units will be
- 22 set aside for seniors and are anticipated to be
- 23 funded for the Empire State supportive housing
- 24 initiative. There would also be on-site parking
- 25 for approximately 89 cars, 25 on a surface parking

- 2 lot along Utica Avenue shown here, and a further 64
- 3 spaces in the cellar of the building. The majority
- 4 of the on-site spaces would serve One Brooklyn
- 5 Health staff.
- 6 As part of the project, the
- 7 development team would also reconfigure Kingsbrook
- 8 Jewish Medical Center surface parking lot, west of
- 9 East 49th Street, adding additional capacity
- 10 through the use of stackers and parking attendants.
- 11 The new development at its highest would be 12
- 12 stories tall, and this rendering shows the taller
- 13 East 49th Street side of the building, where a
- 14 residential entrance, the community facility, and
- 15 an ambulatory health center anticipated to be a
- 16 dialysis clinic, run by One Brooklyn Health, will
- 17 be located. The Utica Avenue side of the building
- 18 would have senior units along with the main
- 19 entrance to an approximately 20,000 square foot
- 20 retail space.
- 21 In sum, the benefits of the
- 22 proposed project include increasing affordable
- 23 housing opportunity in East Flatbush, creating a
- 24 new ambulatory facility operated by the local
- 25 health system, visually enhancing the public realm

- 2 along Utica Avenue, East 49th Street, and Rutland
- 3 Road, and bringing new social services space, among
- 4 other amenities.
- 5 ESD's General Project Plan would
- 6 override local zoning, allowing for more
- 7 residential units and retail space than the current
- 8 zoning resolution allowance. An Environmental
- 9 Assessment or EA has been prepared in accordance
- 10 with the State Environmental Quality Review Act,
- 11 and the EA found that there would be no significant
- 12 environmental impacts created by the proposed
- 13 project. Therefore, an Environmental Impact
- 14 Statement is not needed.
- 15 ESD currently expects construction
- 16 on the building to begin later this year and to
- 17 conclude by the end of 2024. You can find further
- 18 details on the Utica Crescent page of the ESD
- 19 website.
- 20 Tonight's public hearing and the
- 21 public commentary that follows are important
- 22 opportunities for community stakeholders and the
- 23 general public to express their views to ESD, about
- the proposed GPP and the proposed project.
- 25 Thank you-all for your time, it's

- 2 been my pleasure to walk through this project with
- 3 you and we're looking forward to your comment.
- 4 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you,
- 5 Doug.
- 6 Okay. So as I mentioned at the
- 7 beginning of this meeting, if you signed up to
- 8 speak before the meeting, during the registration
- 9 process, we do have your name and you will be
- 10 called in the order that you registered. If you
- 11 have not registered but wish to speak, please enter
- 12 your first and last name into the chat feature of
- 13 the Zoom, which, again, can be found by clicking on
- 14 the chat icon in your menu bar.
- 15 Please note, once again, the chat
- 16 function is available only to provide your name in
- 17 the event you wish to provide verbal comments. Any
- 18 comments submitted in the chat function box will
- 19 not be considered official comments for the record.
- 20 All written comments must be
- 21 provided to the e-mail address provided in the
- 22 notices, which is also on screen here tonight. The
- 23 option to sign up to speak will end 30 minutes
- 24 before the close of the meeting at 8:00 p.m.
- 25 Each speaker will be given three

- 2 minutes to assure that everyone gets a chance to
- 3 provide their thoughts here.
- 4 Finally, I want to remind you
- 5 that the purpose of this hearing is to afford you
- 6 an opportunity to make comments about the proposed
- 7 General Project Plan. This is not a question and
- 8 answer session, nor is it an opportunity to discuss
- 9 aspects of the project beyond the scope of this
- 10 GPP.
- 11 I'll begin by calling the name of
- 12 those who have registered to speak. Elected
- 13 officials and representatives of a government
- 14 agency will be provided the courtesy of speaking
- 15 first. You'll be prompted to unmute yourself and we
- 16 will make sure you're ready before starting the
- 17 time clock. You can scroll or swipe to see the
- 18 time clock on your screen to remind you of the
- 19 length of time you have left for your testimony. I
- 20 may notify you verbally when you have 15 seconds
- 21 remaining.
- 22 Again before you speak, please
- 23 state your name, first and last for the record.
- As a reminder, this is a public
- 25 hearing for the proposed General Project Plan for

- 2 the Utica Crescent Mixed-Use Project. We also ask
- 3 that speakers exercise civil conduct during their
- 4 testimony. Speakers using inappropriate language
- 5 will be muted and cautioned before being allowed to
- 6 continue. Please also note again, this is not a Q
- 7 and A session.
- 8 Okay. So we do not have any
- 9 pre-registered speakers, but we do have someone who
- 10 has posted in the chat box -- oh no, that is not a
- 11 request to provide verbal comment. If any of the
- 12 attendees would like to provide verbal comment,
- 13 please put your first and last name into the chat
- box, and then we will call your name.
- 15 Again. If anyone would like to
- 16 provide verbal comment, please use the chat box.
- 17 If you're having trouble finding the chat box, just
- 18 hover over your Zoom window, it might be at the top
- 19 or the bottom of your screen and just click on the
- 20 chat box and then you'll see where you can type
- 21 your first or last name.
- We have one attendee here who has
- 23 called in by phone and if you've called in by phone
- 24 and you would like to register to speak, press star
- 25 nine, again, that's star nine, that will indicate

- 2 to us that you would like to say something. Give
- 3 folks a minute here.
- 4 Okay. I do not see any names,
- 5 requests to speak in the chat box and we don't have
- 6 anyone pre-registered to speak. At this time, we
- 7 are going to advance to the next slide and keep the
- 8 hearing open for anyone who joins and would like to
- 9 provide comment, we'll be watching to see. You can
- 10 put your first and last name into the chat box.
- 11 And again, a reminder, this is not
- 12 a question and answer session. We'd ask that you
- 13 not use to chat for the Q and A function for
- 14 anything other than leaving your name, if you'd
- 15 like to provide verbal comment.
- Thank you.
- 17 (Brief recess.)
- 18 THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay. We do
- 19 not have any registered speakers at this time.
- 20 Just a reminder for anyone who may have just
- 21 joined. If you'd like to provide verbal comment,
- 22 to please put your name, your first and last name
- 23 into the chat box, and as a reminder to attendees,
- 24 the copy of this PowerPoint will be posted to the
- 25 project website, which is here on screen.

24

25

2	Thanks.
₹	Thanks.

3	Hi, everyone. I see that we have
4	one person who has called in on the phone, which
5	means that you may or may not be able to see the
6	screen, which is asking if you'd like to provide
7	spoken comment, to please put your first and last
8	name into the chat box. If you're on the phone
9	only and he would like to provide spoken comment,
10	please press star nine, and that will indicate to
11	us that you would like to comment and then we will
12	allow you to speak. That's just for the person
13	who's dialed in on the phone.
14	Thank you.
15	Hello, everyone. I just wanted
16	to say there is no one registered to provide
17	comment at this time but if you are a call-in
18	listener, meaning you called in by phone only, if
19	you would like to make a spoken comment, please
20	press star nine, that's star nine, and that will
21	indicate to us that you would like to speak and we
22	will unmute you from there. For everyone else
23	that's in attendance, again, if you would like to

provide comment, please provide your first and last

name in the chat box. Thank you.

25

2	Hello, everyone. Just wanted to
3	check in here and remind everyone that if you would
4	like to make a spoken comment, please type your
5	first and last name into the chat box, and for
6	those of you who are calling in by phone only and
7	therefore cannot use the chat box, please press
8	star nine. Star nine on your keypad, that will
9	indicate to us that you would like to make a spoken
10	comment, if you do that we will allow you to
11	unmute.
12	Again, for those calling in on
13	phone only, please press star nine, if you would
14	like to make a comment, and for the rest of the
15	participants, please use the chat box, if you would
16	like to make a comment, by typing your first and
17	last name.
18	Thank you.
19	Hi, everyone. We have ten
20	minutes left in this public hearing and I just
21	wanted to remind all of the participants that if
22	you would like to make a spoken comment, to please
23	put your first and last name into the chat box.
24	Again, we have about ten minutes left in this

hearing, and for those of you who have called in by

- 2 phone only and would like to give a comment, please
- 3 press star nine on your phone.
- 4 Again, that's star nine, that will
- 5 indicate to us that you would like to speak and we
- 6 will allow you to unmute, and again, for other
- 7 attendees who have joined via Zoom, if you would
- 8 like to make a comment in the last ten minutes,
- 9 please put your first and last name in the chat
- 10 box.
- 11 Thank you.
- 12 THE HEARING OFFICER: Hi,
- 13 everyone. It is now 7:58, and before we close this
- 14 hearing, I would like to ask one last time if
- 15 there's anyone -- any attendees who would like to
- 16 provide spoken comment, and if you would, please
- 17 put your first and last name into the chat box in
- 18 our remaining couple of minutes here and for those
- 19 of you who are calling in by phone only, please
- 20 press star nine, if you would like to provide a
- 21 spoken comment. Again, for those calling by phone
- 22 only, press star nine, if you would like to provide
- 23 a comment.
- 24 Okay. Let the record reflect
- 25 that there were no requests to provide spoken

- 2 comment and as there are no other speakers
- 3 registered, we will close the meeting.
- 4 Thank you again for joining us
- 5 tonight for the public hearing for the proposed
- 6 General Project Plan for the Utica Crescent
- 7 Mixed-Use Project.
- 8 Please note that you may submit
- 9 comments on the proposed General Project Plan for
- 10 the Utica Crescent Mixed-Use Project, to addresses
- 11 that are on screen, on the next slide, to the
- 12 e-mail address at, uticacrescent@esd.ny.gov, or in
- 13 writing to Empire State Development, 633 Third
- 14 Avenue, New York, New York 12017. Again, that is
- 15 e-mail -- by e-mail to, uticacrescent@esd.ny.gov.
- 16 This information is also
- 17 available on ESDs website, comments will be
- accepted until 5:00 p.m. on April 20, 2022. All
- 19 written comments received by ESD, prior to 5:00
- 20 p.m. on April 20, 2022, will be addressed by ESD,
- 21 prior to final consideration of the proposed GPP.
- 22 I want to reiterate that comments on the proposed
- project can be made until 5:00 p.m., on April 20,
- 24 2022.
- The time is now 8:00 p.m. and

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1
     this hearing is now concluded. Thank you-all for
 2
 3
     attending this evening and goodnight.
 4
                          (At 8:00 p.m., the proceedings
 5
     were concluded.)
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3	STATE OF NEW YORK )
4	SS.
5	COUNTY OF NEW YORK )
6	
7	
8	I, MARC RUSSO, a Shorthand
9	(Stenotype) Reporter and Notary Public within and
10	for the State of New York, do hereby certify that
11	the foregoing pages 1 through 21, taken at the time
12	and place aforesaid, is a true and correct
13	transcription of my shorthand notes.
14	IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have
15	hereunto set my name this 4th day of April, 2022.
16	More Pusso
17	MARC RUSSO
18	
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< Dates >	3 : 1 7	20:1, 20:4	<b>ai ms</b> 8:22
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